

# THE YALE POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING

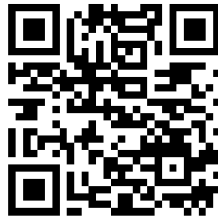


Tuesday, December 12, 2023 | 6:00 PM



## CHECK-IN

YPA OPEN FORUM 2023/12  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 6:00PM



<https://cqlink.me/2dA/c2260995124111757>

### Chairs [5 min]

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- Welcome
  - Co-chairs reminded attendees that tonight's meeting would introduce all the new coordinators of each committee.
- OPA meeting postponed for after Dec 14th to discuss benefits.
  - Co-chairs will provide updates on how that meeting proceeds in the January Open Forum.
- YPA Code of Conduct - YPA guidelines
  - Co-chairs reiterated that YPA guidelines call for all YPA members to respect one another, and work to create positive community with all YPA events. Co-chairs reminded committee members to make sure that the link (included [here](#)) to the YPA guidelines be included in all YPA events posted on Yale Connect.
- Postdoc survey analysis has started.
  - Further details about this analysis will be provided to the community in January or February.
- Announce the new YPA logo.
  - The current YPA logo is outdated according to Yale's licensing guidelines. There was an open call for designs for a new YPA logo. Submissions were open for the last two months. Last week, a new logo was selected. Please make sure that all YPA flyers and communications use the new logo, linked [here](#).
- Celebration event for YPA Committee members after Open Forum.
  - The goal of this celebration is to thank committee members and coordinators for their hard work over the past six months.

- Co-chair election result.
  - There were three great candidates, and Laura Santos received the most votes. Laura is a second-year post doc who has previously volunteered as co-chair of the Professional Development committee.
  - Co-chair Sudheesh thanked Cintia for all her hard work over the past year.

### **Secretaries [2 min]**

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- Introducing our lovely new co-coordinator: Mia Daucourt.
  - There were no objections.
- Enjoy the celebration event!
- We are looking for new members.
  - Co-chair Jessica thanked Alaz for all her hard work over the past year.

### **Treasury [4 min]**

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- Introducing new treasurer: Khuleshwari Kurrey.
  - There were no objections.
- Update on the current budget status.
  - Link to budget usage [here](#).
- Purchasing guidelines
  - The Office for Post-Doctoral Affairs has changed their guidelines. All orders must be placed online through the OPA or with the use of the physical Pcard. Amazon orders need to be processed two weeks ahead of time and delivered to the OPA. Orders through Instacart/Grubhub must be processed one week ahead of time and can be delivered to the event location.
    - Please place your online orders with the treasurers [here](#), and reach out to treasurers to coordinate use of the pcard and delivery schedules as early as possible.
  - Physical use of the pcard is preferred.
  - Co-chairs thanked Amanda for her hard work over the past year.

Contact information for Treasurers: [rafael.lopes@yale.edu](mailto:rafael.lopes@yale.edu) and [khuleshwari.kurrey@yale.edu](mailto:khuleshwari.kurrey@yale.edu)

### **Community and Networking Committee [6 min]**

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- Introducing new co-coordinator: Nicolo Mangraviti.
  - There were no objections.
  - Co-chairs thank Gemma for her excellent work over the past year.

### **Recent and Upcoming Events**

- November 19 — YPA music Party
- December 2 and 3 — Carillon tour

- Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> - YPA Board Game Night at OISS
- Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – YPA holiday Party at Gryphon’s ballroom
- Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> — YPA Art gallery Tour

## 2024 Outlook

- More Carillon Tours
- More sports to come in January/February à Basketball and Ice Hockey
- Postdoc sports ball championship (spring)
- More Music spectator and community jam events
- More Socials
- Valentine event maybe and Summer BBQ
- Community networking luncheons
- Potential collabs with Yale Club and Yale Colleges

## *Upcoming Community and Networking Committee meeting Tentatively*

- **Time** – 6-7pm
- **Date** – Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>
- **Location** – TBA
- **Contact emails** – [pranav.sanghavi@yale.edu](mailto:pranav.sanghavi@yale.edu) and [nicol.mangraviti@yale.edu](mailto:nicol.mangraviti@yale.edu)

## **Professional Development Committee [5 min]**

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### **Past Event**

- Pint of Postdoc on Thursday, Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm, with 2 Postdocs, Rob and Lisa, who successfully presented their research.

### **Next Events**

- **Career Cafe** on Jan 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm with Jacob Gonzalez (OCS) and Erin Heckler (OPA), "opportunities beyond the lab after a Postdoc", SHM, Coffee/Snacks provided.
- **Pint of Postdoc** on Thursday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm, with 2 Postdocs presenting their research at Gryphon's Pub
- **Fundamentals of Scientific Writing** with Dr. Angelika Hofmann, Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 4-7 pm on Zoom
- **Intensive Grant writing workshop** with Dr. Angelika Hofmann, *Part 1*, March 14<sup>th</sup> 4-7 pm on Zoom
- **Intensive Grant writing workshop** with Dr. Angelika Hofmann, *Part 2*, March 22<sup>th</sup> 9-12 pm in person. 20 registered participants will have the chance to review key points of grant writing with Angie and will be helped to improve their own materials. Coffee/Snacks will be available + books: Scientific Writing and communication by Angelika Hofmann.
- **Salary negotiation workshop** with Dr. Anees Chagpar (1h), March

- **Visit of cold spring harbor** in NY in Feb/March
- Amit Koikkarah Aji is a candidate to become the next PD committee co-coordinator as Laura Santos fulfilled her 1-year term.
  - [There were no objections.](#)

*Next committee meeting will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm on Zoom. Contacts: [laura.santos@yale.edu](mailto:laura.santos@yale.edu) and [bianka.mecaj@yale.edu](mailto:bianka.mecaj@yale.edu)*

- [The committee is for new members, so please reach out if you are interested.](#)

## **Communications Committee [2 min]**

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### **Updates**

- Introducing new co-coordinator: Benoit Mermaz
  - [There were no objections.](#)

### **General**

- Ads form
  - The [bit.ly/YPAads](https://bit.ly/YPAads) form has two options: one for Twitter/Newsletter, and another for Instagram/Facebook.
  - If you want to advertise your event in the Newsletter/Twitter as well as Instagram/Facebook, you will have to **fill the form twice** – this is because the form asks for different information for each platform.
  - **Timeline: Submit by Friday 5:00 pm to include something in the next week's newsletter.**
    - Contact Orchid ([orchid.allicock@yale.edu](mailto:orchid.allicock@yale.edu)) for special requests regarding the newsletter.
    - Message the Instagram account for special requests there.
- Website requests: fill out the form [bit.ly/YPAwebsite](https://bit.ly/YPAwebsite)

## **Symposium Committee [5 min]**

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### **Summary for Nov - Dec**

- Introducing new co-coordinator: Pratap Vydyam.
  - [There were no objections.](#)
- Rescheduled symposium to May 23, 2024 to avoid conflict with Yale Ventures event.
  - [The top contenders for venue are: Marsh Hall and Kroon Hall.](#)
- Contacted YSE to organize visit to Kroon Hall
- Received quotes from headshot photographers.
- Soliciting suggestions for keynote speakers, voting in Feb
- Planning for cultural activity: contacted Yale Dhvani (last year we had Yale Tango Club)
  - [The committee is also looking for suggestions, so if you have any ideas, please reach out.](#)
- Should we organize the symposium in hybrid format? Are IT costs justified?

- There was very low virtual attendance last year, and the IT costs of running a hybrid event are quite high. The committee would like feedback from the YPA community and chairs on whether to offer a hybrid option for the 2024 symposium.

### Plan for next month

- Reach out to abstract judges.
  - The judges from last year are still at Yale, so the committee will reach out to them first. The plan is to get a broad representation of judges from all different departments. Approx. 18 out of 20-25 abstract judges are still at Yale in STEM-related fields.
- Scheduling committee appreciation meeting in Feb.
- Reach out to department sponsors:
  - Ask them to sponsor some of the smaller events that happen throughout the day.
- Start advertising the symposium.
  - The committee is designing flyers now.
- We are also looking for new committee members:
  - The committee is looking for about 5 new members to join the committee and help us plan the Symposium.

Are you looking to get experience in conference organization and outreach activities, as well as develop your leadership, communications, and teamwork skills? The Symposium Committee is the right place for you! Get in touch with Jay ([dhananjay.bhaskar@yale.edu](mailto:dhananjay.bhaskar@yale.edu)) to join the committee.

- The committee thanked Matteo for all his hard work over the past year.

*Next committee meeting will be held on Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm ET on Zoom [link available from Jay ([dhananjay.bhaskar@yale.edu](mailto:dhananjay.bhaskar@yale.edu))]*

### **Mentorship Committee [3 min]**

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- Building your mentoring team workshop for Postdocs and Postgrads from OPA
  - Event is ongoing.
- New member of the Buddy Program team - welcome Hesham!
- Most of the programs we offer are ongoing - feel free to email us for any questions ([swapna.naik@yale.edu](mailto:swapna.naik@yale.edu) & [marija.markicevic@yale.edu](mailto:marija.markicevic@yale.edu))
- Introducing the New Co-Coordinator - Dagmar Zigarckova (Dasha)
  - Dasha emphasized that having a mentor and mentoring others is one of the most powerful ways that we can grow in professional (as well as personal) life. And that was the primary motivation behind their desire to be co-chair of this committee.
  - There were no objections.

The committee chairs thanked Marija for all her hard work over the past year.

Looking for new members to join our committee. If interested, please get in touch via email [marija.markicevic@yale.edu](mailto:marija.markicevic@yale.edu) and [swapna.naik@yale.edu](mailto:swapna.naik@yale.edu).

### **Advocacy Committee [4 min]**

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- Upcoming events from Being Well at Yale:
  - TOMORROW: Research-based Strategies to Reduce Stress and Anxiety During the Holidays and Beyond (December 13, 2023, 12:00pm to 1:00pm)
  - Cheers to Change – Exploring Your Relationship with Alcohol (Jan 23, 2024, 12:00pm)
- New event announced: The Office of DEI is organizing an event about facilitating equity and support for early career researchers.
  - December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1-2 pm at 333 Cedar Street. Please register for the event on Yale Connect.
- If you are interested, please volunteer to be the new coordinator!
  - The current co-coordinator, Ishita, is stepping down this month, so if you're passionate about advocacy and want to help make a difference to the lives of post-docs, get in touch!
- Talk to us!
  - If you are struggling with any concerns, such as disability accommodation, bullying, etc., please get in touch with the advocacy committee and we will advocate for your needs. Reach out to [claire.laxton@yale.edu](mailto:claire.laxton@yale.edu)
    - The goal of this committee is to make sure that everyone is being treated fairly and having a good exp at Yale. To do that, the committee needs to know what the issues facing post docs and ARS are.

*Next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Write to Claire to join the meeting invite and join our committee!*

### **Belonging Committee [3 min]**

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- Past/ongoing events:
  - 3rd Annual Winter Care Package for New Haven's Unhoused (w/ Advocacy and YBPA)- Handout is tomorrow! 70+ packs made & additional items for handing out.
    - The Belonging Committee will keep collecting items for care packages even after the first distribution. The goal is to facilitate an ongoing collaboration with New Haven's Unhoused community.
- Upcoming/planned events (early 2024):
  - Equity and Social Accountability event with Dr. Malika Fair. January 22<sup>nd</sup> tentatively.

- A flyer advertising the event will be emailed next week. There will also be a Q & A opportunity at this event.
- Co Hosting event with LGBTQ+ Affinity group for postdocs. February
- Grievance reporting procedure and information workshop (with Title IX and OIEA)
  - This workshop will provide information about what to expect when you file a report. Both Title IX office and the OIEA have mandatory reporting processes. Title IX addresses sexual harassment and misconduct, and any sex-based discrimination. OIEA addresses discrimination based on protected characteristics (e.g. age, race, religion).
  - OMBUDS would typically be the organization that helps Yale Post-Docs and ARS to navigate the reporting process, but since Yale doesn't have an OMBUDS office, the belonging committee is working to make sure that Post-Docs and ARS know this information.
- The DEI office is organizing two upcoming events:
  - A dinner where Yale professors will address Islamophobia.
  - A lunch where Jewish and Israeli professors will address anti-Semitism.

*Next committee meeting will be held on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Contacts:*

[azmi.ahmad@yale.edu](mailto:azmi.ahmad@yale.edu) or [sabrina.ghadaouia@yale.edu](mailto:sabrina.ghadaouia@yale.edu)

### **Associate Provost for Postdoctoral Affairs, Erin Heckler [5 min]**

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- This semester Victoria led several cohort-based programs: mentoring workshops, Equitable Teaching in the Humanities in collaboration with the Poorvu Center and Practicing Leadership in collaboration with the grad school. All had great positive feedback from postdoc participants! We are working on our programming planning for the spring semester – if you'd care to offer any ideas or input, please reach out to Victoria Hallinan [victoria.hallinan@yale.edu](mailto:victoria.hallinan@yale.edu)
- With the med school's DEI office we're co-hosting a postdoc Dr. Mayank Chugh from Harvard to present "Facilitating Change: Equity, Opportunity, and Support for Early Career Researchers" on Friday, December 15 Yale Connect link to register: <https://cglink.me/2dA/r2260855>
- The postdoc office observes recess days and will not be available Dec 22 through Jan 1.
- Congratulations to all the YPA leaders on a great year! And we look forward to working with the newly elected leaders in 2024.

### **Open Forum - Questions/Comments [15 min]**

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Q- A YPA member's PI told them that as a post doc they aren't entitled to recess days off between Dec 25 and Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

A- Erin Heckler informed the YPA that specific policies regarding recess dates are set by academic unit. Erin recommends contacting the admin of your department to know what your department policies are regarding recess days. Because some Post-docs and ARS are part of clinical departments, their departments won't officially schedule recess days. The department must be consistent with their academic unit regarding recess days. Email the OPA if you don't get a clear answer from your department.

Co-chair Cintia thanks the YPA group for their outstanding work all year.

Co-chair Sudheesh thanks Cintia for all of her work, and particularly for spearheading the Yale Postdoc and ARS salary increase.